## Rear Commodore Europe

The racing scene in Europe is active. The Europeans and Worlds in Portoroz, Slovenia, last September were a full success and attracted 62 boats from 8 countries, and 79 boats, from 10 countries, respectively.  All sailors enjoyed the excellent racing in varying wind conditions, the friendly atmosphere and the hospitality in the Slovenian town. For many Europeans originating from North of the alps, it was a welcome prolongation of the summer.

A few Fireball fleets throughout Europe are growing while many are stable. Worldwide the boat numbers have exceeded 15100. To mention is the CZE fleet with many young and highly enthusiastic members. They have reached a momentum with their lively and joyful young group that allows them to attract new members to the fleet. Furthermore, it is the CZE and to a lesser degree the Swiss that actively travel to other national championships giving those events an international flavor. Lately also the SLO fleet is requesting new boat stickers. Has last year's Worlds revived the class? We hope so. New boats are also sold in the UK.

The Europeans this year will be held in Shetland, July 26 - August 1, and we hope that it will attract a good number of competitors. The upcoming Grand National is the CZE National Championship in Lipno, July 4 - 6. The Swiss-Italy Cup will take place in Maccagno at Lago Maggiore June 28/29. I am convinced that these events will provide good sailing and great company.

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